THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) The neo-liberal policy regime does not discourage the statutory inspections on safety in industrial Centres/units at work place. The provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and rules framed thereunder are to be complied with by all the types of factories and no exemption is granted.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 there is no distinction between the regular worker and Contract Worker for payment of Compensation. Statutory provisions exist under the Factories Act, 1948 and Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 to ensure basic safety norms in workplaces and adequate compensation for the workers respectively.

Survey regarding impact of economic slowdown

707. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of two surveys conducted by Labour Bureau of the Ministry in January, 2009 and April, 2009 in various sectors to assess the impact of economic slowdown and employment in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per the Report more than 12 lakh workers have lost their jobs during October-December, 2008;

(c) if so, the other findings of the survey; and

(d) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to help those workers who lost their jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) In a sample survey conducted during January, 2009 by Labour Bureau covering 2581 units in 20 centres across 11 States/UTs relating to important sectors like mining, textiles, metals, gems and jewellery, automobile, transport and IT/BPO, it was found that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during the quarter October-December, 2008.

In the similar quarterly survey conducted during April, 2009 in 3192 units pertaining to textiles and apparel, handloom/powerloom, leather, metals, gems and jewellery, automobile, transport and IT/BPO, drawn from 21 centres in 11 States/UTs by Labour Bureau, it was observed that the employment in selected sectors has increased by about a quarter million during the quarter January-March, 2009.

(d) The action taken by the Government to mitigate the adverse effect of economic recession include various fiscal and monetary measures including three stimulus packages, implementation of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' wherein the insured worker and his family are entitled for 50% of wages up to a period of one year and medical benefits in the case of loss of job, schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Admi Bima Yojana, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, skill upgradation and vocational training programmes and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.